

OSA -1454-67

4 April 1967

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To:

Subject: DROGUE CHUTE HANGUP INCIDENT WITH COLLINS  
PARACHUTE PACK

Dear Bruce,

Recently, during the normal parachute unpacking and inspection procedure in the parachute loft, a pilot chute in the drogue pack of a Collins parachute assembly was observed to stick. This occurred as the packer had his hands over the drogue chute pack and pulled the pins. All attempts to cause this malfunction to repeat have been unsuccessful.

It is extremely doubtful that this could occur in bailout conditions, but investigation of this incident reveals a minor modification that should be accomplished to completely obviate it.

In investigating the drogue pack incident reported by  on 24 March 1967, it was found that,

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- A. The bottom side flap and the two end flaps had pulled back exposing part of the pilot chute.
- B. The top side flap was still positioned as if it were still in the packed condition.
- C. The top coil on the pilot chute was catching on a lip formed by the metal stiffener that fits under the cones.
- D. The possibility of this condition seems to be more pronounced if for some reason, when pins are pulled, the flaps hesitate or are restricted in some manner.

In order to eliminate this possible problem area, the following changes could be easily accomplished and appear to give better flap opening action.

- A. Replace the two, eleven inch bungees that are on the chute at present with four shorter bungees.

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The present bungees will not equal out in tension due to wrapping around bag and binding on bottom side.

- B. Reposition eyelets on top side flap to upper edge of metal stiffener.

If coil spring hangs up this will cause flap to peel back rather than trying to slide off as it now does.

I recommend that the above modifications be authorized as a field service bulletin to be accomplished during the next Time Compliance inspection on each Collins parachute pack.

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Best regards,



meb